

2. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein said return device has arranged therein a support plate which comprises a number of passage holes, each assigned to at least one processing means, and relative to which said intermediate bottom is movable for arranging said sorting opening between bottom opening and selected passage hole.

A | 3. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein said receiving means comprises a shell which can be assigned with its open side to said insertion opening.

4. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate bottom is circular and rotatable about its center axis.

5. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein said sorting opening is designed as a radially outwardly open peripheral recess.

6. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein said shell is rotatably supported in coaxial fashion relative to said center axis.

7. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein a bearing shaft extends substantially in vertical direction from said support plate and has rotatably supported thereon shell and/or intermediate bottom.

8. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein said bearing shaft is a hollow shaft.

9. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein said passage holes are arranged along a circle in concentric fashion relative to said intermediate bottom.

10. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein a guide extends from each passage hole to a corresponding processing means.

11. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein at least one identifying means is assigned to said insertion opening and/or said receiving means and/or said support plate and/or said intermediate bottom for identifying at least one characteristic feature of said container.

12. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein the characteristic feature of said container is the geometrical shape thereof.

13. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein a storage and/or evaluation means is assigned to said identifying means, in particular for storing different geometrical shapes of said container and for comparing a container to be recognized with a stored shape.

14. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein said identifying means is designed as a scanning means and is movable relative to the container to be scanned.

15. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate bottom comprises a rotational sleeve which is rotatably attached to the bearing shaft of said support plate.

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16. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein said shell is held by means of a radial arm by a bearing sleeve which is rotatably attached to said rotational sleeve.

17. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein said rotational sleeve of said intermediate bottom is rotatably supported in the hollow shaft of said support plate and a bearing shaft of said receiving means is rotatably supported in said rotational sleeve.

18. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein said shell of said receiving means and said intermediate bottom are rotatable according to signals of said identifying means.

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19. (Amended) The return device according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate
bottom is sector-like.
